

# THE SCOTTOW STOCKADE FORT

LOCATED ON

BLACK POINT

SCARBOROUGH, MAINE

1681 - 1690



SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS  
IN THE STATE OF MAINE

1931



EXERCISES  
AT MARKING THE SITE  
OF THE  
SCOTTOW STOCKADE FORT  
BY  
A MEMORIAL TABLET  
SCARBOROUGH, MAINE  
AUGUST TWENTY-FIRST  
1931





LOCATION OF WESTERN BASTION OF  
SCOTTOWS STOCKADE FORT  
BUILT, 1681—DESTROYED, 1690  
BY THE FRENCH AND INDIANS

THE STONE IS FROM THE GRIST MILL OF  
COL. THOMAS WESTBROOK AT STROUDWATER, 1727

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IN COMMEMORATION THEREOF  
THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY THE  
SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS IN THE STATE OF MAINE  
AUGUST 21, 1931





# OFFICERS

1931-2

## *Governor*

CHARLES JOSEPH NICHOLS

## *Deputy Governor*

CHARLES FOBES FLAGG

## *Lieutenant Governor*

GEORGE FOSTER CARY

## *Secretary*

ALLAN PRESCOTT STEVENS

## *Treasurer*

GEORGE CURTIS WING, JR.

## *Registrar*

RUEL WASHBURN SMITH

## *Historian*

ISAAC WATSON DYER

## *Genealogist*

\*PHILIP FOSTER TURNER

## *Chaplain*

KENNETH CHARLES MORTON SILLS

## *Chancellor*

HAROLD HUBBARD BOURNE

## *Gentlemen of the Council*

WILLIAM MOULTON INGRAHAM

PHILIP INGRAHAM JONES

CHARLES LYMAN HUTCHINSON

FREDERICK JULIAN ILSLEY

ISAAC BARTLETT CABOT DYER

## *Deputy Governor General*

WILLIAM MOULTON INGRAHAM

\* Deceased.

## ORDER OF EXERCISES

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### INVOCATION

Kenneth Charles Morton Sills, D.D.  
President of Bowdoin College and Chaplain of the Society

### HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

Hon. Charles Joseph Nichols  
Governor of the Society

### ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Hon. William Moulton Ingraham  
Deputy Governor General of the Society

### UNVEILING TABLET

Mrs. Addie Kaler Vaill

### DEDICATION

Hon. George Curtis Wing, Jr.  
Treasurer of the Society

### HISTORICAL ADDRESS

Hon. Augustus Freedom Moulton  
Former Governor of the Society

### BENEDICTION

Rev. G. Elmer Mossman  
Pastor of Congregational Church of Scarborough



## EXERCISES

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In the month of April, 1931, the Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Maine, received a communication from Mrs. Mary Gunnison of Scarborough that she would donate to the Town of Scarborough a lot of land upon which formerly stood the western bastion of the Scottow Stockade Fort, on the condition that the Society of Colonial Wars would place, with appropriate exercises, a suitable tablet thereon during the summer of that year.

Two of our members, Hon. Augustus Freedom Moulton and Hon. William Moulton Ingraham, generously offered to bear the expense of obtaining and placing of such a tablet. Accordingly, Mrs. Gunnison executed and delivered the deed of this location, with a right of way on foot thereto.

Mrs. Addie Kaler Vaill, wife of Compatriot Edward Griswold Vaill, caused to be placed thereon one of the stones from the grist mill of Colonel Thomas Westbrook of Stroudwater, and upon this stone, our Society placed the marker.

Invitations were sent to the Officers of the General Society of Colonial Wars, the Society of Colonial Dames, the Mayflower Society, the Maine Historical Society, and to citizens of Portland, Scarborough, and the adjoining towns, and at the appointed hour, on August 21, 1931, about three hundred persons gathered for the exercises.

After the invocation by Kenneth Charles Morton Sills, Chaplain of the Society, Governor Charles Joseph Nichols gave an historical introduction, followed by an address of welcome by Hon. William Moulton Ingraham, the Deputy Governor General. The tablet was then unveiled by Mrs. Vaill, and Hon. George Curtis Wing, Jr. in a few well chosen words, paid a memorable tribute to the spirit of dedication. Hon. Augustus Freedom Moulton, State Historian, gave an interesting and instructive historical address on the early

settlement of Scarborough, the erection of the fort, its capture by the French and Indians, and the effect upon the early colony. At the conclusion of the exercises, at the invitation of Mrs. Vaill, the guests were served with refreshments on the adjacent lawn.

The Society is not only indebted to Mr. Moulton and Mr. Ingraham for their generosity in bearing the expenses incurred, but is also indebted to Compatriot Francis Orville Libby for the photograph of the tablet reproduced here, and to Mrs. Vaill for her hospitality.

The Historical Introduction, the Address of Welcome, the Dedication and the Historical Address follow.

## HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

BY

GOVERNOR NICHOLS

*Friends:—*

The history of Kittery, Saco, York and Scarborough is the history of early Maine.

While Gosnold explored our bays and inlets in 1602, and Captain John Smith mapped the coast line of northern New England twelve years later, neither attempted to establish a colony on the shores of the new country.

Captain Popham landed an expedition at the mouth of the Kennebec during the same year that the English founded Jamestown, but the hardships of a severe and vigorous winter reduced its numbers to approximately thirty persons, and upon the death of the leader, the famishing and destitute remnant returned to England. For fifteen years thereafter the Abanki roamed at will over this territory unmolested.

In 1623, settlements were made at Kittery and Saco, and the following year Ferdinando Gorges planted the banner of England on the east side of the York River and soon incorporated the first city on this continent, under the name of "Georgeana." The year 1630 saw the white man living on Black Point and Blue Point, and Scarborough became the sixth town in the Gorges Grant. Thus began the future State of Maine.

For more than a century this Province was the battlefield of the French and English for the Supremacy of America. Not only did our citizens nobly defend home and family against the brutal attacks of the Indians, but the little colony, led by William Pepperell, took a prominent part in the capture for the mother country of the French citadel, Louisburg, only to see it given back to France at the end of the war.



At the call for Independence, the District of Maine gladly responded. In 1812, her sailors and seamen baffled the navy of England and today our State stands out, the northeastern corner-pillar of this great Republic.

We cherish every memorial of those worthy ancestors. We admire the daring enterprise of those brave men who encountered the dangers of an unknown seas, the violence of cruel savages, and the loneliness of the unbroken wilderness, to establish a land of freedom—a country set like a sentinel between the two mighty oceans of our globe.

The story of their labors and sufferings can never cease to be of interest to us. The vigor of youth, the maturity of manhood, the feebleness of old age will never cause the nation to forget the spots where its infancy was cradled and its life defended.

Here, in 1680, Joshua Scottow gave the land and began the construction of the great Stockade Fort which bears his name. Here it stood, as a bulwark, until in the French and Indian attack of 1690, it fell, together with all the other English forts east of Wells. In commemoration thereof, we have assembled today to mark for ourselves and posterity, with a brazen tablet, the location so generously donated as a public park by Mrs. Mary Gunnison.

The object of our Society is not to perpetuate national hostility. We consecrate our work to the memory of those who devoted their lives to establishing the greatest democracy of all time, and woe be to him who attempts to tear down its high and noble standards.

May this tablet typify the sterling character of the pioneers of our Country. May childhood learn the purpose of its erection from maternal lips; may youth stand in awe before its glowing light, and may the half-dimmed eyes of withered age behold it, and pass on with the lingering recollection of what it stands for. May wavering patriotism and social unrest turn to it and be assured that the foundation of our Government shall never crumble nor decay.

## DEDICATION

BY

HON. GEORGE CURTIS WING, JR.

That which may be said by way of dedication of a marker soon may be forgotten. In reality the marker dedicates itself. It records the past. It awaits the future. Whatever of sentiment, of pride, of patriotism, of gladness, of sorrow, it may awaken in years to come no one knows. But may we as a Society express the hope that this bronze which marks the site of a fortress may serve to inspire a sound respect for a respectable past, and that the law and order of our civilization and our time may bring generations yet to come into a larger, richer and sweeter life.

## ADDRESS OF WELCOME

BY

HON. WILLIAM MOULTON INGRAHAM

*Your Excellency, Members and Guests:*

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to these exercises in behalf of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Maine. We are assembled on historic ground and by placing this marker here we are observing one of the important objects of our Society, for by so doing we keep alive the memories of this spot which was the scene of early struggles between the colonists and the French and Indians.

Scarborough, and especially this part of the town, is rich in colonial history and it is most appropriate for us to assemble here to pay tribute to those who suffered in the early days in order that we, their descendants, might live in comfortable and happy surroundings. The old fort is no longer here, but we know it was on this very land that it was erected and inside of its protecting walls the colonists sought shelter from a savage foe.

This is now a peaceful scene. It is hard to realize that the war cry of the savage once disturbed these beautiful surroundings. Yet such was the case, and today we have assembled to do honor to the memory of the men and women of those trying days, who were laying the foundations of a nation which would prove to be the wonder of the world.

My part in this program is a simple one. Those who are to follow me will tell you more about the Scottow Stockade Fort and its history. I can only extend the greetings of the Society to our members and friends who have assembled here and hope all will carry away the memories of a pleasant and profitable occasion.



HISTORICAL ADDRESS  
BY  
HON. AUGUSTUS FREEDOM MOULTON  
THE SCOTTOW STOCKADE FORT

We have here a rather unique marker consisting of a bronze tablet upon an ancient gristmill stone. The marker bears the name of the old Scottow Stockade Fort, and the mill stone from the Col. Thomas Westbrook mill at Stroudwater is only less ancient than the fort itself.

This is meant to perpetuate the memory of colonial days in Scarboro and in "the Province of Mayne" as well. It will recall the fact that Maine, differing from the other colonies, was established upon a purely royalist and aristocratic basis. We are now standing on the Thomas Cammock grant within the Gorges Palatinate of Maine. These were contemporaneous with the Puritan charter of Massachusetts Bay, and the royalist Palatinate was intended to offset and control Massachusetts and the rest of New England. These concessions for settlement were given just prior to the English revolution of 1640, which overthrew kingly plans in America as well as at home.

The Cammock grant, with the carelessness often shown in such matters, was included in that of the Ferdinando Gorges larger gift of Maine but was released to Cammock by Gorges and went on as a separate affair. He established a residence apparently at the Ferry Rock and built up a considerable business and then went on a voyage to the West Indies where he died. By his will he gave his property to his wife, Margaret, for life, then to his good friend, Henry Jocelyn.

Margaret, preferring a husband to over-lordship, married Jocelyn, which united the complete title in him. Jocelyn was a fine and capable man and a loyal supporter of the King against Parliament. By reason of this he became involved in his financial affairs, and in 1666 he mortgaged his patent with its lands, dwelling houses, fish houses and stages, including his seignorial rights and privileges, to our Joshua Scottow, a

merchant in Boston, for about 300 pounds, and five years later for 180 pounds additional he transferred the property with all its rights to him in fee.

This Cammock tract was quite extensive, containing 1,500 acres, about two and a quarter square miles, and extended from the Scarboro or Owascoag River to the Spurwink River, including Prouts Neck, Scarboro Beach and Higgins Beach. There was a considerable population, estimated at three hundred, but while Scottow was owner of the land the people had already got the American idea and did not like to be considered tenants merely or to pay annual rental.

There had been for nearly fifty years perfect peace with the Indians, but the English and the French both claimed Maine by right of discovery. The original inhabitants, being heathen, were not considered as having any rights. Due to French influence chiefly the Indians became hostile. They saw also the encroachment upon the forests which they regarded with religious veneration and the disappearance of game upon which they subsisted. A treaty of peace had been made but raids were all the time threatened and houses were built with loopholes for defence.

In this situation Scottow proposed to the inhabitants that he give 100 acres of land on the ridge before us to be cleared and on it a strong stockade fort built to which, in case of attack, all might resort, on condition that he be regarded as overlord under the terms of the old Cammock patent and receive twelve pence yearly from each as rental. To this the inhabitants in general meeting consented, and the strong fort was erected with the united help of all. The leasehold system of land-holding therefore came back again.

The people still lived in fear of the Indians, who, though it was nominally a time of peace, were far from friendly. The fort was built of palisades set in the wall with ditch in front. The location was on the ridge in the Atlantic House field. A part of one of the bastions at the corner may still be traced in the edge of the woods where our marker stands, but the rest has been smoothed off in the plowed field. All around it was cleared land so that no hostile attack could be made without being seen.



Captain Scottow had been for a dozen years a member of the Boston Artillery and was well informed in military matters. The "great fortification," so-called, was impressive, and during the years while it stood no attack was ever made against it. It gave a feeling of comfortable security for the whole region around.

The French had never relinquished their claim of ownership of Maine. In 1689, Count Louis Frontenac, the greatest of the Governors of New France, was put in charge of the military forces of Canada by Louis XIV, "The Grand Monarque." Better than any one he realized the value of Maine, and especially its value as an outlet for Canada. The next year he organized a general plan for conquest. He dispatched a large force, dressed in Indian costume, for the occupation of all Maine.

Entering from the North, they swept over all the eastern part of the Province, taking Pemaquid and all the settlements there, and then advanced with a large force against Portland, then called Falmouth. There, had been erected a stockade fort nearly as large as the Scottow fortification, called Fort Loyal. These held out for four days, but French skill added to the large Algonquin contingent overcame Fort Loyal and the whole place. They surrendered upon the promise that all might withdraw in safety. This promise was disregarded and a general massacre followed. They then advanced for an attack upon the Scottow fort. Defence seemed hopeless, and the whole population of the Cammock grant withdrew with such of their belongings as they could take with them. All of Maine was abandoned so far as the town of Wells at the Southern extremity. The Scottow fort was utterly destroyed, with the old church and all buildings.

For about fifteen years Maine was held by the French and the Indians. No settlements were made, for the warfare with the Western tribes compelled the withdrawal of the French forces, then the settlers began to come back. The stockade was not rebuilt for the line of hostilities was forced back with garrison houses. Scarboro was comparatively exempt from warfare, and township government was effected, but hostilities continued during "the half century of conflict" until the



capture of Quebec ended all French occupation in America and the great stockade was no longer needed. By the new province charter of William and Mary, the district of Maine became a part of Massachusetts and subject to its laws. Scot-tow died in 1698, and the Cammock territory was transferred to Timothy Prout, from whom Prout's Neck received its name, and the Palatinate and the Cammock grant, with its aristocratic restrictions, were numbered with forgotten things.

The Society of Colonial Wars are entitled to great credit for erecting their marker to perpetuate the memory of the heroic days when were established the beginnings of a township, a state and a great nation, times, the memory of which, should not be forgotten.



